

Comments

The Examiner has rejected claims 7, 12 and 14 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 6,622,798 to Rogers, et al. The Examiner states that Rogers discloses an apparatus for limiting rotation of the cementing plug during drillout that comprises a sleeve 76 inserted in a casing 52 wherein the sleeve comprises a plurality of sleeve segments 78. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The structure identified by the Examiner is not a sleeve or apparatus for limiting rotation of a cementing plug during drillout but is rather a collet which has a plurality of collet fingers 78. The collet is not made up of segments and is not an apparatus for limiting rotation of a cementing plug. The Rogers patent does not disclose either in the drawings or the description how the collet is utilized or could be utilized in the manner set forth in the claims of the current application. As such, the patent cannot be said to anticipate. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended claim 7 to further distinguish from the prior art cited from the Examiner. Claim 7 has now been amended to make it clear that the sleeve comprises a plurality of separable sleeve segments. Nothing in Rogers or any other art cited by the Examiner discloses an apparatus for limiting rotation of a cementing plug that comprises a sleeve with a plurality of separable sleeve segments connected to one another wherein the sleeve has a generally cylindrical outer surface that will engage the casing. As such, claim 7 and claims 12 and 14 which depend therefrom should be allowed.

While the Examiner has allowed claim 9 as written, it appears that claim 9 should have been made dependent from claim 7 as opposed to claim 6. Therefore, Applicants have amended the application so that claim 9 depends directly from claim 7 which as set forth herein is now in allowable form.

Conclusion

Accordingly, and for the reasons set forth herein, Applicants respectfully request an early indication of the allowance of claim 1-16.

Respectfully submitted,



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